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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

APR 30 2004

PTO/SB/30 (08-00)

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/894,356
Filing Date	June 28, 2001
First Named Inventor	Mark A. Ritchart et al.
Group Art Unit	3736
Examiner Name	J. Foreman
Attorney Docket Number	END-770

CUSTOMER NO. 000027777

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14885 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

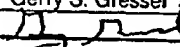
- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on
(any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other

2. Miscellaneous

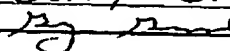
- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. ☐ Other

3. **Fees** - The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed
- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments,
to Deposit Account No. 10-0750 /END-770/GSG.
- i. ☒ RCE fee is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of Time (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
- c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (print/type)	Gerry S. Gressel	Registration No.	34,342
Signature		Date	April 30, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

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Name (print/type)	Gerry Gressel		
Signature		Date	April 30, 2004

5 pages

Serial No. 09/894,356

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APR 30 2004

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Conf No. : 3422
Applicant : Mark A. Ritchart et al.
Application No. : 09/894,356
Filed : June 28, 2001
Title : METHODS AND DEVICES FOR
COLLECTION OF SOFT TISSUE

Group/Art Unit : 3736
Examiner : Foreman, Jonathan

Docket No. : END-770

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April 30, 2004

(Date)

Gerry Gressel

Name of person signing the Certificate

(Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Preliminary Amendment/ RCE responding to Office Action of AUGUST 28, 2003

Dear Sir:

This preliminary amendment and RCE are being submitted after a Notice of Appeal filed March 1, 2004, and before filing of an Appeal Brief. Please consider the claims as amended.

Amendment begins on Page 2